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REPORT

OF

WM. R. SMITH,

State Historian,

OF THE

STATE OF WISCONSIN

FOR THE YEAR 1854.

MADISON:

BERIAH BROWN, STATE PRINTER.

1855.

REPORT.

MINERAL POINT, Dec. 13th, 1854.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, WM. A. BARSTOW,

Governor of the State of Wisconsin:

SIR: Having been appointed in pursuance of an act of the Legislature, approved March 31st, 1854, to superintend the publication of so much of the Documentary History of the State of Wisconsin as was prepared by me previously to the date of said act, I herewith respectfully report to you the result of my action on such appointment:

Mr. Beriah Brown, to whom the contract for printing the History was awarded, having decided that the work should be stereotyped, it became necessary that I should proceed to Philadelphia, to superintend the setting up of the pages, correct the several proof sheets, and attend to the completion of the several stereotype plates, when diligently and faithfully compared with the original manuscript. This labor occupied my time from the 5th day of July until the 2nd day of November; but such a period was no longer, if so long, as I should have been employed in the work of correcting the press from day to day, if the type had been set up and the printed proofs of each page had been taken in Wisconsin.

The stereotype plates of two volumes of the history are now,

and for some time have been, in the possession of Mr. Brown, at Madison, and from the progress in printing the work, which I have seen, I am well assured that the two volumes will be ready for delivery according to the contract.

Two volumes have now been prepared for publication; the first volume commences with the earliest period of our history, and closes with the period of the formation of Territorial government in Wisconsin; this volume comprises 432 pages, and although more matter had been prepared by the compiler, yet this period was considered a proper resting place, leaving for the second volume, the history of Wisconsin through Territorial and State governments, down to the present time.

The other volume now prepared for publication is properly the first in the Documentary series, although entitled the third in the general history; this volume contains 443 pages, and has been considered sufficiently large, although much more matter is already prepared, which may be comprised in future volumes.

Thus the first and third volumes are now in course of being printed; the second and fourth may be completed during the ensuing summer; and a fifth volume, comprising the description and statistics of each county in our State is now in preparation by the compiler, the materials for which he has been gathering and arranging for two years past.

The whole work is separated into three parts, Historical, Documentary, and Descriptive; the first volume of the Historical, and the first of the Documentary parts are now about to be given to the public; I entertain a fervid hope that a work commenced and fostered by the Legislature of the State, may be considered satisfactory as far as it is now presented, and that it will be found worthy of future protection and encouragement by the same authority.

I have deposited in the Executive office the whole of the original manuscript of the first and third volumes of the history, (in

my own hand writing,) and have caused the same to be faithfully copied (by clerks) into substantially bound folio volumes, which are also there deposited.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your Obedient Servant,

WM. R. SMITH.